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CIC BULLETIN

**NEWS FROM DC CORRECTIONS
INFORMATION COUNCIL**



USP Beaumont (BOP photo), high security prison at FCC Beaumont, Texas

FCC Beaumont

The town of Beaumont, Texas was devastated by Tropical Storm Harvey and its aftermath. Beaumont experienced water outages since its water intake facilities failed on August 31, 2017. The Federal Bureau of Prisons reported to the CIC on Sept. 6 that water is back on in Beaumont, TX, and that water systems are currently being flushed. The water can now be used for sewer system, and the city is testing water to see if it is safe to drink or shower.

The federal prison complex in Beaumont (FCC Beaumont), where there are approximately 55 DC men, was not evacuated. As BOP is at 120% capacity Bureau-wide, it determined there were no facilities to evacuate to. The Bureau set up temporary bunk houses (trailers) for staff, a mobile kitchen, generators, additional fuel and additional water in preparation for Tropical Storm Harvey. The Bureau noted that storm predictions were 20-25 inches of rain, but the region received twice that amount. There was initially standing water in limited areas where inmates were located, with more flooding in administrative areas of about 2 inches. It further reported

that facilities are dry now, and any wet drywall will be removed to abate mold growth.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) reports persons there are receiving bottled water and food. While the city water was out, the Complex had access to limited water through its own tower. The limited water has been used for the cooling system. Since the city's water has been out, there has been limited sewage water. Therefore, there has not been sufficient water to thoroughly flush waste through system and so toilets were not being flushed with every use. FCC Beaumont is a [Medical Care Level 2](#) complex with men mostly deemed Medical Care Level 1, and the Bureau said that there was no usage of area hospitals during storm and aftermath. They are now able to update medical supplies. The BOP's online updates on FCC Beaumont can be found [here](#).

Since the Revitalization Act of 1997, all persons convicted of local DC Criminal Code felony violations fall under the custody and control of the BOP. The District does not have the authority to make decision regarding the custody of DC residents incarcerated under local law in federal prisons.

Most of DC men (48) at FCC Beaumont are in USP Beaumont, the high security facility. The Bureau reported that the facility had issues with phone and email services, and are working to confirm that both are back online. Mail is being delivered, but there is still a backlog of delivery to men in facilities due to the storm.

Local news reports and information received from loved ones report stark conditions of limited bottled water, sewage backups, no showers, and unsanitary conditions. The CIC received reports from loved ones in DC that men received 1-2 sandwiches per day and 2 bottles of water. Loved ones also reported limited electricity during last weekend, and that they have not heard from their loved ones in FCC Beaumont by phone or by email.

The CIC would like to hear more from those directly affected by Tropical Storm Harvey. If there are any reports from DC residents at FCC Beaumont or their loved ones, please convey these reports to the CIC at 202-478-9211 or at dc.cic@dc.gov. The CIC will also remain in contact with the BOP about its plans as Irma moves towards the United States. If anyone can provide information from people incarcerated in facilities

Norton Files Amendment to Eliminate Subsistence Fees in Federal BOP Halfway Houses

On August 24, 2017, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton announced that she filed an amendment to the fiscal year 2018 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill to prohibit the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) from requiring individuals in halfway houses to pay a subsistence fee. Currently, BOP charges residents at BOP halfway houses a subsistence fee of 25 percent of their gross income. In August 2016, BOP did modify its policy to stop charging subsistence fee for those on home confinement. Norton's press release can be seen [here](#).

Upcoming CIC Inspections

In September 2017, the CIC is visiting two Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities:

- **FMC Carswell, TX**, a women's medical center, where there are 17 DC women, on **Sept. 7-8**;
- **Volunteers of America Chesapeake Residential Reentry Center, Baltimore, MD**, with 49 DC men, on **Sept. 20**.

If you know anyone at either of these facilities or have information you would like to share about these or other correctional facilities where DC residents are incarcerated, please contact the CIC at [202-478-9211](tel:202-478-9211) or via email at dc.cic@dc.gov.

CIC Reports

View the latest reports and information on CIC's website, cic.dc.gov.

- Inspection Reports - CIC Inspection Report of Rivers Correctional Institution, the latest report added to the long list of CIC inspection reports, can be found [here](#).

- Facebook - CIC's Facebook feed can be viewed on the [home page](#) of its website and followed on Facebook itself. Social Media is one way the CIC provides information from CIC and other sources about conditions of confinement and transition from incarceration to the community.
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CIC Open Meeting - Sept. 28

The next CIC Open Meeting will be on **Thursday, September 28, 2017, at 5:30pm**, at the Greater Washington Urban League, 2901 14th St NW, Pepco Room, Washington, DC, 20009. Use Ground Floor entrance on Harvard St to enter. Topics will include:

- Composition of CIC Board, as it expands from 3 to 5 members.
 - Status of the project to build a new jail through public-private partnership.
 - Introduction of new CIC staff.
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CIC Board Position Available

The Council of the District of Columbia is selecting a second Council-appointed member to the CIC Board. If interested in applying, please forward letter of interest and curriculum vitae to judiciary@dccouncil.us.



July 19, 2017* *Corrections Information Council

Our mailing address is:

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Email: dccic@dc.gov

Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

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